

POCAHONTAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT .S.G.S POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

public and affairs in general. The May term of court of 1826 was attended by the following members Robert Gay, John Gillain, William Blair, John Bradshaw and James Waugh, by this time right much land was being sold and titles transferred, this was all done by the court and the clerks. The county Levy was laid by the County Court assisted by the Magistrates of all over the county.

September 5. 1826 James Kerr a minister of the gospel of the Presbyterian church and an ordained minister was granted the rights of holy matrimony. From time to time a commission was appointed to authorize, recommend the repair and alter roads throughout the county and various men served on these commissions but all were influential citizens. The magistrates of the county recommended a man for Sheriff of the county who was then recommended and confirmed by the court. The salary of all county men was very small and the men that worked on the roads generally received the small sum of 25 cts, per day. Some of the most common offenses at that time were assault and battery, obstructing public roads and one particular case at this time was one against Mary Erwin for stealing and carrying away <sup>II</sup> shoats at a value of \$ 9.00 they were the property of John Sharp( This shows the value of shoats then and now as <sup>II</sup> shoats at the present time would be worth \$ 55.00 or more.

John Tyler was Governor of the commonwealth at ~~KXXX~~ that time. This section furnished money to help construct a road from Staunton to the mouth of

Little Kanawah complying with an act of the Legislature of Va. Each man  
overseeing a road was known as a surveyor and his men that worked under  
him were known as tithables.

George Mayes was the first prosecuting attorney of Pocahontas  
County. All the old soldiers with commissions were commissioned by our co-  
urts to the Governor of Old Virginia who conferred what ever title they  
were seeking. All wills were probated by the court as of today and this  
was one of the reasons for forming a new county in 1821 so that we could  
have our county Government in the midst of the people it was to serve.

The next Governor of Virginia was William B Giles and he wor-  
ked very close with our court. One case of particular mention was that of  
Ben (the man of color) referred to in the will of Jacob Warwick this man  
of color was a Negro slave and after his masters death he took the name  
of Benjamin Warwick in honor of his master Jacob Warwick, Ben had been a  
faithful slave and upon many occasions had defended his master in an att-  
ack made by the Indians with tomahawk and knife. After the death of his  
master it was a question for the court to decide whether Ben could stay  
within the borders of the county a free man or must he be sent back to Va.  
Warwick had made certain provisions for Ben in his will so a comitte was  
appointed by the court to investigate and report back and their findings

ere that Ben be allowed to reside within the border of the county a free man this was passed on by a man by the name of Waugh and Patrick Bruffey.

Forming establishing and maintaining a new county with a small population was right much of a struggle for the few public spirited local men as many of the first settlers of what is now Pocahontas were just hunters and trappers helping out digging Ginseng and fishing, they were very little interested in the county government and public affairs in general as they wanted to be free men with little or no law, these were typical mountain people of which we have a few at the present time populating our mountainous sections, still contented to make a living out of the woods by hunting and digging Ginseng, the change that took place in this era failed to change this people the typical Mountaineer of which many are to be found in the hills of old Pocahontas in the West Virginia Hills where the tiny brook ripples down the mountain side and winds its way to larger waters that finally reach the ocean miles and miles away.

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